

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC "CLOUD HOME"

AND/OR COMMON

USE THIS COPY  
FOR DUPLICATING

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

351 South Second Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Pottsville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Schuylkill

CODE

107

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Marvin F. and Lois A. Brown

STREET & NUMBER

322 East Liberty Street

CITY, TOWN

Schuylkill Haven

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Schuylkill County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Second Street and Laurel Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Pottsville

STATE

Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission  
William Penn Memorial Museum, P.O. Box 1026

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

"Cloud Home", built in 1851, is a 2½ story, fairly compact, rectangular building in the Northeastern Greek Revival style of architecture. Constructed of split fieldstone (painted white), the twelve room dwelling embodies what were once considered the finest elements of this formalized style; compact, blocky, massing; great portico; near-flat roof with center cupola, and a pedimented gable with half-round window opening.

The heavy pedimented gable of the portico is supported by four massive solid pine pillars and each is topped with a restrained but elegant Corinthian capital. Two pilasters reinforce the gable at its ends, and a fan-light window occupies the center of the protruding pedimented gable. The facade is marked by two tall center windows (both four-over-four) on each of the full stories. The windows are equally spaced on all walls of the exterior and in vertical alignment. Each is underscored by a heavy sill and overhung by an unusual decorated cast iron lintel. Every window is framed by heavy panelled shutters. Two second story balconies --- set back on the pedimented gable facade --- are connected with two great pillars, similar to those used to support the pedimented gable. Each porch retains its original and elaborately designed cast iron railing. Massive quoins reinforce the sense of sturdiness and solidity this building conveys and serve to complement the employment of the large split fieldstone used in the construction of the "Cloud Home". A rear solarium/greenhouse, once finished in glass panes, has been enclosed and sided with aluminum, but this does little to affect the graceful lines this Greek Revival style house retains.

The interior, marked by high ceilings, tall window openings framed by heavy panels, and some imposing original woodwork, has undergone some alterations throughout the building's 126 years, but this, fortunately, does not detract from its beauty. Two large staircases, with nicely turned spindles and finely carved newel posts still remain, as does the molded plaster ceiling decoration in the formal drawing room. The drawing room also contains a huge white carrara marble mantle whose protruding chimney is hung with an original large mirror framed by intricately detailed gilded wood.

The seven acre property has three original outbuildings; a very large stone barn located 300 yards behind the main residence and fitted with rounded arch doorways; directly behind the house, located equi-distant from one another, stands a square stone smokehouse and a matching necessity, both with heavy silled windows and topped with carved wooden spires; and, directly in front of "Cloud Home" stands an unusual octagonal stone building with narrow windows and tall carved wooden spire, whose subterranean vault originally served as a fruit storage cellar.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Sarah Bannan

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Cloud Home", so named by its builders and first occupants for its high prominence on the steep slope of Sharp Mountain overlooking the City of Pottsville, was erected in 1851 by John Bannan (1796-1868). A very successful Schuylkill County attorney who specialized in land titles of the valuable anthracite coal region properties, Bannan moved to Pottsville from Orwigsburg in 1851 when the county seat was changed to Pottsville and the new courthouse constructed. Upon his arrival in the new county seat, he built "Cloud Home", an elegant Northeastern Greek Revival style residence. According to local sources, John Bannan's wife, the former Sarah Ann Ridgway (1806-1879), designed the fashionable twelve room dwelling and supervised its construction.

"Cloud Home", as it is still commonly called today, is situated on seven finely landscaped acres. The Bannans --- one of Pottsville's wealthiest and aristocratic families --- imported rare varieties of trees and shrubs for the gardens, and many of these still grace the grounds today. During extensive travels abroad, members of the Bannan family selected exotic trees for their attractive property and one of the rarest specimens, a several hundred year old Japanese bonsai, flanks the main residence today. Traces of two formal paths, "Cherry Walk" and "Apple Walk", winding lanes shaded by those types of fruit trees, still remain although they are slightly overgrown. The Bannan residence --- originally established as a "suburban estate" --- still retains enough of the landscaped property which lends the handsome edifice a formality and elegance.

This fine residence remains one of the last truly elegant private residences in Schuylkill County because of its classical charm and architectural integrity. During the past 125 years, minor interior alterations have been executed, but this Northeastern Greek Revival style building does retain enough period features --- including massive marble mantles, plaster decorated ceilings, finely crafted staircases, and interior panelling surrounding each window opening --- which convey its mid-19th century style. The present owners have undertaken extensive restoration of the split fieldstone edifice --- whose exterior remains unchanged --- and are committed to preserving the original appointments which, combined, yield the prevailing distinction this building retains. This may possibly be the last of the Northeastern Greek Revival structures extant in excellent condition in this county. "Cloud Home" (and its outbuildings and grounds) merits nomination to the Pennsylvania Inventory and

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"CLOUD HOME" - Schuylkill County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

National Register as it continues to impart a sense of anachronistic grandeur and propriety, vestiges of an affluent era once enjoyed in what was, many years ago, one of the prosperous counties (due to the coal industry) in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Schalck, Adolf W., and Henning, D. C., History of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. Volume 2. Harrisburg: State Historical Assoc., 1907.

Beers, F. W., and Cochran, A. B. County Atlas of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. New York: F. W. Beers and Company, 1875.

O'Malley, Michael J. "New Owners of 'Cloud Home' near Pottsville Committed to Restoring and Preserving it". The Valley Gazette. Issue 62 (9/77).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7 acres

### UTM REFERENCES

A 18 399000 4503730  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

### NAME / TITLE

Michael J. O'Malley

### ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

### DATE

July, 1977

### STREET & NUMBER

William Penn Memorial Museum, P. O. Box 1026

### TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

### CITY OR TOWN

Harrisburg

### STATE

Pennsylvania

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

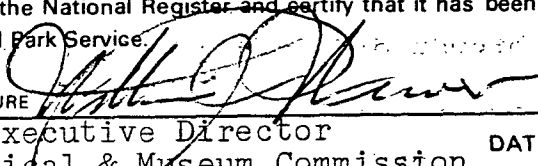
NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

### STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



### TITLE

WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director  
 Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

### DATE

2/11/78

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

### DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

### DATE

### ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Mill Creek

Port

READING

Mechanicsville

Palo Alto

POTTSVILLE  
E. M. 656

Silver

Creek

Mount  
Carbon

NORWEGIAN

D N O R T H M

READING

SCHU

Willow Lake